(b) whether Government are taking any step to make sports mandatory to ail educational institutions; and

(c) if so, by when it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. India is yet to get a gold medal in any of the individual sport events at the Olympics. Although we have a very large population with around 77 crores coming within the below 35 years age group, hardly 5 crores have access to proper sports facilities. With a view to addressing this huge gap in the availability of sports infrastructure, especially at the grassroots level, the Ministry has received the in-principle approval of the Planning Commission to launch a nation wide programme and entitled the 'Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhyan', which aims to provide all the village and block panchayats with basic sports infrastructure in a phased manner over a period of 10 year. The Ministry has also prepared a draft Comprehensive National Sports Policy, which *inter alia,* lays special emphasis on the integration of sports with formal education at both school and College level. This would help in creating a strong sports culture in the country, which would also help in the promotion of excellence in sports at the national and international, including Olympic level. "Excellence in Sports" can only be built on the foundation of "Sports for All"—a goal set out in the revise Twenty Point Programme launched on Gandhi Jayanti 2006.

National Games in Jharkhand

1363. Ms. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Games would be held in Jharkhand by the end of this year;

(b) whether his Ministry is aware that the required infrastructure is not yet ready for the proposed games; and

(c) in what manner his Ministry would manage to accelerate the progress of the infrastructure required to hold the games?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The dates for holding the National Games in Jharkhand are yet to be finalized by the Indian Olympic Association.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, the Ministry is aware that the required infrastructure for the Games, which is to be developed by the State Government of Jharkhand, is not yet ready. According to the State Government, around 80% of the construction works of the Mega Sports Complex at Hotwar, Ranchi has been completed. The final date of completion is the 15th December, 2007 and the State Government is trying its best to complete the work in time.